

DOCKET NO.: THOM-0020

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. national phase application of:

Martin John Charles Offa-Jones

International Application No.: **PCT/GB01/02971**

International Filing Date: **05 July 2001**

For: **RECLOSABLE FASTENERS FOR PLASTICS BAGS AND OTHER CONTAINERS**

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents,
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attn: Box PCT/DO/US

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Claim 3, on the first line, after "claim 1", delete -or 2-;

Claim 4, beginning on the first line, after "claim 1," delete -2 or 3,-;

Claim 7, beginning on the first line, after "claimed in", delete -any preceding claim-, and insert therefor claim 1.

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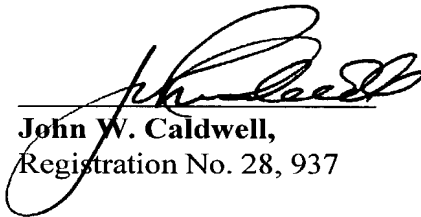
REMARKS

Early consideration and allowance of the above-referenced patent application is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 4 and 7 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. No new matter has been entered. None of the amendments are submitted for reasons of patentability.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

Respectfully submitted,



John W. Caldwell,
Registration No. 28, 937

Date: March 7 2002

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

Claims 3, 4 and 7 have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) A reclosable fastener as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], in which each of the elements is provided with two hooks, engageable with the hooks of the other element.

4. (Amended) A reclosable fastener as claimed in claim 1, [2 or 3,] in which each of the elements is provided at or adjacent to its margins, on the face remote from the hook or hooks, with a pair of protruding ribs.

7. (Amended) A reclosable fastener as claimed in [any preceding claim] claim 1, in which a single flange is provided on one only of the two interengageable elements of the fastener, for attachment to a film or web.

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CLAIMS

1. A reclosable fastener for plastics bags and other containers, comprising two elements, each element comprising at least one portion releasably engageable with a portion of the other element, and each element comprising an upstanding post at the margin of the fastener which is engageable with a heel of the other element at the opposing margin of said other element, wherein the respective posts and heels of the two elements are complementarily angled at their respective contact surfaces.

2. A reclosable fastener as claimed in claim 1, in which the releasably engageable portions are hooked portions.

3. A reclosable fastener as claimed in claim 1, in which each of the elements is provided with two hooks, engageable with the hooks of the other element.

4. A reclosable fastener as claimed in claim 1, in which each of the elements is provided at or adjacent to its margins, on the face remote from the hook or hooks, with a pair of protruding ribs.

5. A reclosable fastener as claimed in claim 4, in which each of the ribs is overlaid with a layer of sealing/welding material.

6. A reclosable fastener as claimed in claim 5, in which the sealing/welding material is EVA.

7. A reclosable fastener as claimed in claim 1, in which a single flange is provided on one only of the two interengageable elements of the fastener, for attachment to a film or web.